THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, the Prison Administration continuously monitors the position and there is no undertrial prisoner lodged at present in the Central Jail, Tihar who has spent in the jail a period more than the maximum period of imprisonment that can be awarded to him for the offence he is alleged to have committed.

Stiff Competition Faced by Cotton Textile Industry

*534. SHRI RAMACHANDRAIAH RUMANDLA :

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether synthetic cloth materials are posing challenge to cotton textile markets: and

(b) if so, the measures proposed to help the cotton textile industry and the markets?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) No Sir, Cotton and synthetic textiles including blends complement and supplement each other according to varying consumer demands and preferences.

(b) Government of India have launched the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) for modernisation of the textile indusry and the Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC) with a view to improving productivity and quality of cotton, thereby, ensuring availability of quality raw material to the textile industry and strengthening its competitiveness in both domestic and international markets.

Garment Exports

*535. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) The total export of garments during the last financial year 1999-2000;

(b) the increase/decrease percentage as compared to the previous year 1998-99;

(c) what steps are being taken to boost garment exports;